

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02133 081043Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 081005Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3641

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PINT, PGOV, HU

SUBJECT: TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS "ELECTED" BY NEW
HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT

1. IN OPENING SESSION JULY 4, NEWLY SEATED HUNGARIAN
PARLIAMENT, "ACTING ON RECOMMENDATION OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE
(CC) AND PEOPLES PATRIOTIC FRONT," PICKED NEW COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS, PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, PROSECUTOR GENERAL AND
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

2. MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES WERE IN CABINET, WHERE YOUNGER
MEN MOVED INTO TOP POSITIONS. MATYAS TIMAR AGE 52, WAS
REPLACED AS VICE PREMIER AND NAMED AS NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT
SUCCEEDING ANDOR LASZLO, AGE 61. TIMAR'S REPLACEMENT IS FERENC
HAVASI, 46 YEAR OLD TRADE UNION AND PARTY WORKER WITH NO
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT. TIVADAR NEMESLAKI
REPLACED GYULA HORGOS AGE 55, AS MINISTER OF METALLURGY
AND MACHINE INDUSTRY. NEMESLAKI, WHO IS 52, ALSO WORKED HIS
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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02133 081043Z

WAY UP THROUGH TRADE UNION AND PARTY RANKS AND IS NEW TO

GOVERNMENT.

3. NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD IS 46 YEAR OLD DR. PAL ROMANY, WHO REPLACES IMRE DIMENY AGE 53. ALTHOUGH ROMANY HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN INVOLVED IN PARTY WORK, MOST RECENTLY AS CC DEPARTMENT CHIEF, HE IS AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT POSTS. PAL SOMON, NEW MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY IS ALSO 46 AND IS CHEMICAL ENGINEER BY PROFESSION. HE HAS WORKED EXCLUSIVELY IN GOVERNMENT, MOST RECENTLY AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY.

4. SEVERAL OTHER APPOINTMENTS ALSO OF INTEREST. DR. KAROLY SZIJARTO 48 YEAR OLD FORMER V-P OF SUPREME COURT, WAS NAMED PROSECUTOR GENERAL. IN PARLIAMENT, CC SECRETARY ANDRAS GYENES AGE 51, WAS PICKED AS PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. APPOINTMENT OF GYENES MAY INDICATE THAT COMMITTEE WILL ADOPT SOMEWHAT MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN FUTURE. SEVERAL YOUNGER MEN, INCLUDING BUDAPEST FIRST SECRETARY IMRE KATONA, WERE APPOINTED TO PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL.

5. NEW CABINET MEMBERS ARE WITHOUT EXCEPTION YOUNGER MEN. SHUFFLE CLEARLY REFLECTS JANOS KADAR'S OFT-STATED DESIRE TO REJUVENATE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. NOTEWORTHY THAT OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHIES ON NEW MEN (SEE SEPTTEL), STRESS WORKER BACKGROUNDS AND LONG TIME MEMBERSHIP IN PARTY. HAVASI AND NEMESLAKI ARE NOT TECHNICIANS AND THEIR APPOINTMENTS MAY REPRESENT KADAR'S CAUTIOUS POLICY OF MAINTAINING BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNOCRATS AND IDEOLOGICAL WORKERS.

6. COMMENT: EXTENDED JULY 4 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AND "ELECTIONS" FOR TOP GOVERNMENT POSTS WERE CARRIED OUT WITH OSTENTATIOUS TV AND MEDIA COVERAGE IN ELABORATE, WELL-STAGED FASHION TO REASSURE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE AND TO PERSUADE FOREIGN OBSERVERS OF HUNGARY'S LITERAL - MINDED DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC FORMS.
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